

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 26, 28 through 41, 43, 45 through 63, and 65 through 108 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1 through 3, 6 through 24, 28 through 41, 45 through 59, and 80 through 108 are allowed.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of December 3, 2004.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

Claim 43 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended the claimed invention particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention to comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore, presently amended claim 43 is allowable under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Anticipation Rejections

Anticipation Rejection Based on Beffa (U.S. Patent 5,915,231)

Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Beffa (U.S. Patent 5,915,231).

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Applicants assert that the Beffa reference is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102 to claims 25 and 26 of the present application because at the time the invention of the present application was made both the present application and the Beffa reference, United States Patent 5,915,231, were owned by Micron Technology, Inc., Boise, Idaho. Therefore, Applicants request the rejection of claims 25 and 26 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on Beffa (U.S. Patent 5,915,231) in view of Moon (U.S. Patent 5,326,709)

Claims 60 through 63, 65 through 68, 73 and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beffa (U.S. Patent 5,915,231) in view of Moon (U.S. Patent 5,326,709). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Applicants assert that the Beffa reference is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103 to claims 60 through 63, 65 through 68, 73, and 74 of the present application because at the time the invention of the present application was made both the present application and the Beffa reference, United States Patent 5,915,231, were owned by Micron Technology, Inc., Boise, Idaho. Therefore, Applicants request the rejection of claims 60 through 63, 65 through 68, 73 and 74 be withdrawn.

Obviousness Rejection Based on Beffa (U.S. Patent 5,915,231) in view of Moon (U.S. Patent 5,326,709) as applied to claims 60-63, 65-68, 73 and 74 above, and further in view of Vue et al. (U.S. Patent 5,256,562)

Claims 69 through 72, and 75 through 79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beffa (U.S. Patent 5,915,231) in view of Moon (U.S. Patent 5,326,709) as applied to claims 60-63, 65-68, 73 and 74 above, and further in view of Vue et al. (U.S. Patent 5,256,562). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as hereinafter set forth.

Applicants assert that the Beffa reference is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103 to claims 69 through 72, and 75 through 79 of the present application because at the time the invention of the present application was made both the present application and the Beffa reference, United States Patent 5,915,231, were owned by Micron Technology, Inc., Boise, Idaho. Therefore, Applicants request the rejection of claims 69 through 72, and 75 through 79 be withdrawn.

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Applicants submit that claims 25, 26, 43, 60 through 63, and 65 through 79 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants request the allowance of claims 25, 26, 43, 60 through 63, and 65 through 79 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Duzan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

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